



**OCTOBER THEME**

**USE IT OR  
LOSE IT**

**Don't Waste What You've Got**

**BIBLE STORY**

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7**

Cheer Factor | God Loves a Cheerful Giver

**BOTTOM LINE**

Use your money wisely

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."  
Luke 16:10a, NIV

**LIFE APP**

**Stewardship** | Taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God

**BASIC TRUTH**

I need to make the wise choice and with God's help, I can!

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **STEWARDSHIP** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

**This WEEK: Key Question: How can you best use your money?** They may not have a lot of it, but kids this age are starting to have some "pocket money" of their own. And even if they don't, now is a perfect time to set a foundation of stewardship related to how we use the money we have in a way that honors God. We'll walk kids through the principles of give, save, and spend, so when they ask themselves this question, they'll have a perfect starting point to make wise choices with their money throughout their lives.

A huge way we can use our money wisely is by how we give some away to help others. We'll look at something Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...God loves a cheerful giver," (NIRV). We have opportunities every day to spend money on all sorts of things and experiences. But what if we looked at our money differently? What if we looked at money through the eyes of stewardship and saw that how we use our money reflects how we take care of what God has given to us.

**Bottom Line: Use your money wisely.** One of the best ways we can use our money is to give some away and allow God to do something amazing with it. We'll help kids figure out ways they can give, save and spend their money wisely.

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that today's content would change how they view money and how they interact with it. Pray not only for generosity of spirit, but also for the power of a changed perspective in kids' lives. Ask God to help kids put what they're learning into action by focusing on becoming cheerful, openhanded givers.

**•• JUST FOR FUN**

**Made to Connect** | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask: When you give something to someone, do you expect to get something back in return? Why or why not? Are there times when you do and times when you don't?
- Let kids discuss their answers to the question.



- Encourage them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.

## •• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

*Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Pennies

### **What You Do:**

- Direct kids to bend their arm so their elbow points in front of them and their hand is next to their ear; their forearm is parallel to the floor.
- Give them a coin to place on top of their elbow.
- Kids will quickly lower their arm and try to catch the coin with the hand of the same arm before the coin hits the floor.
- If a kid succeeds in catching the coin, let him or her try again using two coins.
- You might want to encourage kids to stand in front of a wall when they attempt this so coins don't go flying everywhere.
- For a visual demonstration go to: <https://youtu.be/nJLknKSDnAE>

**What You Say:** "This month we have been talking about stewardship—taking care of what you have because it belongs to God. Last week, we learned that God wants you to use your things wisely. Can anyone guess what else God wants us to use wisely? (*If you need to, hold up a coin as a hint.*) **[Transition] That's right! Our money! Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll learn/we learned how God wants us to use our money wisely.**"

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

## •• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

*Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Two pieces of copy paper, markers, masking tape

### **What You Do:**

- Draw a big smiley face (*or ask a volunteer to*) and write the word "Cheerful" underneath on one of the pieces of copy paper.  
—Tape it to the right side of your small group table.
- Draw an angry-looking face (*or ask a volunteer to*) and put the word "Forced" underneath on the other piece of paper.  
—Tape it to the left side of your small group table.
- Point to the right side of your table and tell kids that area represents people who give easily, generously, and cheerfully.
- Point to the left side of your table and say that this area represents people who worry about having enough money or give money just because others tell them to.
- Ask them to stand in the spot that describes them best—to the right for cheerful generous givers and to the left for those worried about giving or forced to give by someone else. NOTE: If someone stands in the middle, just ask him or her why he or she chose that spot. He or she probably has a reason.
- Challenge the students to talk to other people who chose the same answer and pick a spokesperson to share with everyone else



about why they went that way.

- Ask the right side spokesperson, then the left side spokesperson, to share their thoughts.
- Ask if they think that their answers change based on the situation—ask if there’s anything that could happen that would make them answer differently.

—If so, what? In other words, are there some situations where you cheerfully give but others where you are more nervous or have to be forced?

—What makes them different?

- Ask those who tend to be more “worried” or “forced” givers what they wish other people knew about how they feel.
- See if the cheerful givers can think of anything that would make it harder for them to give generously in the future?

**Optional:** If you still have time, you could say the right side of the room is for people who naturally save money and the left side is for people who like to spend their money. Ask them to move again to the spot that most represents them and have a conversation about what makes them want to save or spend. (*You can also flip the papers over and write “Saver” on one and “Spender” on the other and then tape them back to the table.*)

**What You Say:** “There are times that it’s easy to be a cheerful giver—to give generously without a worry in the world. But there are other times and situations that can make us hesitate, worry, or even complain if someone forces us to give when we don’t feel ready. But God wants us to live generously without holding back, trusting God with the future.”

•• **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**

**What You Need:** Bible, copy paper, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- Re-read today’s passage together as a group: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
- Encourage kids to get into groups of 2 to 4 and come up with a representation of this passage.
- Tell them that they can focus on just one part of it or the whole thing.
- Challenge kids to think artistically and give them the following options:
  - Act it out dramatically, with or without a narrator, and speaking lines
  - Illustrate a picture or draw a comic
  - Create a song or rap, new or based on one that already exists.
- Give them a moment to think about what they’d like to do and then instruct them to get into small groups of 2 to 4 and come up with a representation of this passage together.
- Give them 5 minutes to start—increasing the time up to 10 minutes as needed.
- Remind them that they will share their work with everyone else at the end.
- Ask for volunteers to share their representation and remind everyone else to be a good audience.
  - The artists can hold up their drawings/comics and explain, and the others can perform their ideas together.
  - After they are finished sharing, the group can ask questions and talk about what they liked about the art and performances.

**What You Say:** “When we share, even a little, God can do great things. We get to be a part of what God is doing in the world when we look for ways to give generously and with a good attitude.”

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed



**What You Do:**

- Discuss the following...

- Why do you think God cares if we give cheerfully or not? Why does it matter to God if we give because someone forced us to?
- Does God need our gifts and our money?
- Why do we give money to the church? What does that look like in your family?
- If you make money or an allowance, do you give part of it back to God and the church? Is it hard to give money you've earned or gotten as a gift? What makes it harder?
- What does giving regularly do for us and for our attitude?
- How does giving and helping others change our perspective?
- What kinds of things do you happily give money toward or would you like to give money toward in the future?

**•• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

***Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Read Deuteronomy 15:10.
- Ask if anyone can put that in his or her own words or rephrase it a different way? (*Tip: You might need to re-read just a phrase or section at a time and pause.*)
- Ask the following questions:
  - Why do you think this verse says that when we give generously with a good attitude that God will bless our work?
  - What does giving generously have to do with being blessed?
  - What work are you doing that you think God might bless if you found ways to be more generous—with your time, with your energy, with your talent, or with your money?
  - Who do you think is the best example of a cheerful and generous giver? Why do you he or she is that way? How could you be more like that?

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**PRAY AND SEND** [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

***Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***

**What You Need:** Pennies from “Get Your Head in the Game” activity

**What You Do:**

- Pass out a penny to each person.
- Ask them to think of at least one way they know they can give generously and cheerfully this week or this month.
- Tell them to put their pennies in the middle of the group after they have shared their ideas.
- Ask everyone to put one of their hands in the middle on top of all the pennies, like you'd huddle up with a sports team before a game, and then have them close their eyes so you can pray and send them out.

**What You Say:** “Dear Jesus, we want to be generous people. Everything is yours anyway. Help us as we leave to clearly see places where you're already at work and other opportunities for us to show people love. We don't want to be people who just talk about you at church. We want to become more and more like you. Help us to realize when and where we can use our money wisely and cheerfully to do good. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

**What You Do:** Give each child a weekly GodTime card. Sunday leaders, pass out October's monthly Parent Cue cards to adults who haven't yet received one this month. Tell adults that today we learned it is important to use our money wisely.